

Calendar No. 81

82D CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
No. 80

UNITED STATES MORGAN HORSE FARM

FEBRUARY 8 (legislative day, JANUARY 29), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ELLENDER (for Mr. AIKEN), from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 271]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (S. 271) to authorize the transfer to the Vermont Agricultural College of certain lands in Addison County, Vt., for agricultural purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The proposed transfer of the United States Morgan horse farm, as authorized by the bill, is fully explained in a report submitted by the Department of Agriculture. A copy of the report, dated February 6, 1951, and recommending enactment of the legislation, is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington 25, D. C., February 6, 1951.

Hon. ALLEN J. ELLENDER,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
United States Senate.*

DEAR SENATOR: This is in reply to oral request for a report on S. 271, a bill to authorize the transfer to the Vermont Agricultural College of certain lands in Addison County, Vt., for agricultural purposes.

This bill authorizes the transfer to the Vermont Agricultural College of the United States Morgan horse farm at Middlebury, Vt., comprising 942.42 acres, together with certain personal property. All gas, oil, coal, or other mineral deposits or fissionable material are reserved to the United States as well as the right to use the land to remove them. The bill limits to June 30, 1951, the time during which the college may notify the Secretary of Agriculture of the acceptance of the lands and other property.

About half of this land was donated to the United States in 1907 by Col. Joseph Battell. In the deed he stated that he hoped the lands would be used primarily to encourage the breeding of Morgan horses. The other half of the land was purchased in 1917 from Middlebury College. The land has been used for agricultural research, principally for research on horses.

The 1951 budget estimates provided for the closing of research on horses at the United States Morgan horse farm and included such funds as were considered sufficient for the orderly closing of the station by December 31, 1950. However, the General Appropriation Act, 1951, contained funds for closing the station not later than June 30, 1951. The conference report on the bill (H. Rept. No. 2991) stated on page 29 under amendment No. 172 in part:

"The amount appropriated includes \$19,000 proposed by the Senate to enable the Department to continue operations of the Morgan horse farm until the State legislature can consider a proposal for the State of Vermont to take it over. It is agreed unanimously by the conferees of both Houses that this activity must be disposed of by the end of the fiscal year 1951."

The Vermont Agricultural College has expressed interest in obtaining this land for agricultural purposes. It is anticipated that the Vermont State Legislature will consider the matter of transfer of the property at its 1951 session.

It is desirable that the transfer of the station to the Vermont Agricultural College be authorized as soon as possible in order that transfer can be made at once if the Vermont State Legislature provides funds for the college to operate the station and to permit the Department to withdraw as soon as possible in accordance with the wishes of the Congress. In the event the college does not take over the station it should be closed at once to conserve funds.

S. 271 is similar to S. 4235, Eighty-first Congress, on which this Department made a favorable report.

Passage of the bill is recommended.

Approval of the bill would not entail any additional expense to the Department. The Bureau of the Budget advises that from the standpoint of the program of the President there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

K. T. HUTCHINSON,
Assistant Secretary.

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to whom was referred the bill (S. 271) to authorize the transfer to the Vermont Agricultural College of certain lands in Addison County, Vt., for agricultural purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The proposed transfer of the United States Morgan horse farm as authorized by the bill is fully explained in a report submitted by the Department of Agriculture, a copy of the report, dated February 2, 1951, and recommending enactment of the legislation, is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. February 2, 1951

Hon. J. T. Hutchinson,
Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
United States Senate.

Dear Senator: This is in reply to your letter of January 25, 1951, in which you authorized the transfer to the Vermont Agricultural College of certain lands in Addison County, Vt., for agricultural purposes.

This bill authorizes the transfer to the Vermont Agricultural College of the United States Morgan horse farm and certain adjacent lands, together with certain necessary property. All land, all crops, or other contents of buildings on the farm are reserved to the United States as well as the right to use the land to move them. The bill also provides that the land be transferred to the college only upon the Secretary of Agriculture's approval of the transfer and other conditions.

A portion of this land was donated to the United States in 1907 by Col. Joseph H. B. In the year 1910 the land was leased to the United States for use primarily to conduct the breeding of Morgan horses. The other half of the land was purchased in 1917 from the Vermont College. The land has been used for agricultural research principally for research on horses.